

## **“My wonderful time in Australia!”**

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Students from Germany experienced an unforgettable 6 weeks in Queensland: exploring the country, the language, the culture .. and having the time of their lives! Here’s one student’s story ...

### **From Hessen to Queensland**

When 20 young German school students from the state of Hessen arrived in Brisbane as part of the Society for German-Australian Exchange (SAGSE Qld Inc) exchange

program , little could they imagine what impact the six weeks with host families would have on them, and how their love of Australia would grow.

Staying with families in Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Bundaberg and experiencing school and family life here was not all. They also enjoyed a fascinating journey as part of the exchange – an organised bus tour of the best of Queensland’s sights from Brisbane to

Carnarvon Gorge to Cairns to whale watching at Hervey Bay and much more.



Here are the memories of one of these students ...

### **Katja Hansen’s story – “My wonderful time in Australia”**

These 6 weeks I spent flew by. It feels like yesterday that I arrived at the airport and saw my host family for the first time. Now it’s coming to an end, but when I look back it was a wonderful experience that I will never forget.

I saw so many different things in such a short time. We hiked through the national park (Carnarvon Gorge), snorkelled at the third most beautiful beach in the world (Whitehaven Beach), we went whale and dolphin watching, learned about the aboriginal culture and travelled with the Skyrail over the rainforest in Cairns. Each day was a surprise and no one knew what to expect.



I also really enjoyed my time at school. There are so many differences between German and Australian schooling. In Germany: There are no school uniforms, the start and finish of school is different for every student, the teachers are not like friends and they are stricter and not so funny and we get marked on your involvement in class.

I'm very thankful for my host family for doing these amazing trips to Brisbane City, New South Wales, Eumundi Markets, to the

Gold Coast and a lot more. I enjoyed every day with them and I couldn't ask for a better one.

I'm very happy that I got to meet so many new people. Thanks to everyone who made my time unforgettable!

*Katja Hansen aus Griesheim*

### **Exchange information**

For over 45 years SAGSE has been organising exchanges of German and Australian school student. For further information about their annual exchange program please contact Linda Mains [here](#).